



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONGVIEW RESIDENTS GUILTY OF FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that two Longview residents have pleaded guilty to federal drug charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **AMBER LAWHORN**, 23, and **CHRISTOPHER LEE SNELSON**, 32, have both admitted to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine before United States Magistrate Judge John D. Love today.

According to information presented in court, an investigation began in January 2003 into the distribution of "ice" methamphetamine in East Texas. During this time, the investigation resulted in the arrest of 20 individuals. A 36-count federal indictment was returned in May charging Lawhorn, Snelson, and 18 others with federal charges. This now brings the total of defendants who have pleaded guilty in this case to ten.

At sentencing, Lawhorn and Snelson each face up to 20 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$1 million. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Gregg County Sheriff's Office and the Gregg County CODE Unit. This

case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Moore.

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